

MINUTES
CITY OF AUBURN - TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 17, 2010
8:30 A.M. @ City Hall Conference Room 10

Traffic Committee Members

Valerie Harris, Chair
Robert Richardson, City Mgr
Bernie Schroeder, Dir. Of Public Works
Matt Spokely, Planning Commission
Alan Young, Planning Alternate

1. **Public Comment:**
None
2. **Approval of September 15, 2009 Minutes**
Approval of January 19, 2010 Minutes
Approval of March 16, 2010 Minutes
Schroeder moved to accept minutes/Young
seconded. Minutes approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. **None**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Streetscape update –**
Bernie Schroeder – Phase I is completed; Phase II is in a 60% design pattern in working with PG & E for the undergrounding. Phase II will begin at Big O Tires where Phase I ended and go roughly to Almond Street at Paula's Bakery depending on the amount of money we have available. We have \$1Million dollars to spend; depending on how that can be carved out between undergrounding and the actual construction will dictate how far this can go. We hope to go to construction in the spring.

Chief Harris asked with the downturn in the economy will we expect to save quite a bit. Schroeder said that is kind of an up side to a down side thing in that our dollar will probably go a lot further. The aerial conversion to underground is so expensive it's amazing. We spent \$1.6 Million to underground for a project that cost \$2 Million. It cost \$4.5 Million when we were done.

Young asked if the flag moving would be in Phase II. Schroeder said it was in the Phase II design for relocation. It will be going in front of the podium that is kind of west of the Christmas tree.

Schroeder said she has not been getting the complaints as before on the intersection. People are getting used to the changes that the intersection has brought. There have been a couple occasions where people have come awfully close to the granite bollards. One of them got hit but sustained the hit. The intersection has substantially slowed down traffic.

Schroeder said one thing that she has noticed is seeing about 30 people playing each time she goes there. Chief Harris said she has been impressed at how many people are enjoying the area.

There has been some vandalism at the fire pit with people gashing in the side but it has just been popped back out.

The idea of graffiti cams was discussed, not only for the fire pit area but also for the mural on the wall facing I-80 at the Elks Lodge. There may be a lease option available. It may need to go to Council to get 2 cams.

5. Safety Vest Requirement for Sports Cyclists

Chief Harris said they have contacted other jurisdictions regarding requiring safety vests. They have not been able to find any jurisdictions that have added additional requirements or ordinances mandating wearing safety vests. It comes back to awareness; consciousness about that just in general. Bike shops and different groups or activities such as Auburn Family Night Out, the PD Open House or at the school open house could have some educational material as handouts.

6. Survey Result Update on Orange St / Finley St.

Chief Harris – This has been discussed in previous meetings. Basically, they found that when school kids are not parking on Orange Street residents are happy. Also, if they are parking there and they get their tires marked, they do not park there now. The business owners on Lewis Street have said they have not had the speeders as before now that the Streetscape is done. The Captain will meet with the traffic officer and discuss the possibility of having a volunteer out there with a radar gun.

Commissioner Young asked since having volunteers doing the parking enforcement on a regular basis have there been fewer infractions. Has it made much of a difference?

Chief Harris said people are use to us being very inconsistent in the enforcement efforts. They play a shuffle game in that they don't abide by the 3 hours; they may go over by 15 or 30 minutes or they hope that the parking officer is not coming by at all and we used to stop at 5:00 p.m. because our personnel worked until then. The parking signs say enforcement is until 6 p.m. so we have been out enforcing very close to the 3 hour mark as close as we can. We have seen a number of citations. That's because a lot of people are thinking we're not going to be out there then. If we don't adhere as close as we can to the 3 hour mark we won't have a true picture how effective the 3 hour parking is or whether we need to go to 2 hour parking. So we can't be so generous with 15 minutes or 30 minutes which is what we did on a regular basis.

The end result in feedback is that the cranky ones are regulars and workers for the businesses and some are upset because they are being ticketed but that's exactly where the problems were; folks that were taking spaces all day long and not moving their vehicles.

Schroeder commented that if we take the parking study recommendation it would take it down to 2 hours. Chief Harris said that to get a true picture with seasons and ebb and flow it would take a year. In looking at some of the problematic areas there are people getting ticketed 2 or 3 days in a row.

Young asked how many people we have doing parking enforcement. Chief Harris said we have 5-6 volunteers that share the duty. This covers vacations, etc.

Schroeder asked if we are going back on the survey. Chief Harris said that she is not aware of any complaints. She has the feedback and will include this topic area in her presentation to the council.

7. Parking on Grades

Chief Harris spoke with Mr. Crenshaw and he is very happy that three additional signs went up reminding people to curb their wheels. However, he has one more spot for a sign at the Post Office on Lincoln Way across from the Boys & Girls Club.

Chief Harris handed out a Friendly Reminder flyer that volunteers or officers can put on a windshield if they don't want to give a ticket. Maybe the disabled placard is on the seat and not on the mirror or maybe the wheels are not curbed. The parking enforcement volunteer gets out of their vehicle and walks around the vehicle in question to see if they had forgotten to put the placard on the mirror. They can put the flyer on the car just as a reminder to the driver rather than to give a ticket.

The police department does have warning reminders to give out.

8. College Way, Maple Street Parking Sign Issues

Chief Harris showed a photo of College Way near the high school depicting a parking sign. She said there are "Permit Parking" or "Reserved Parking" signs in different locations. We have issued 55 permits for College Way and in the area of the high school. Some of those permits go to residents, some go to school staff and they do cost money. These permits are at a lower rate than other area permits at \$180.00 per year.

Permit parking began from a conflict with keeping high school kids from parking in front of residences in the area. The issue had been in the paper a lot and was the topic of discussion for some time at the traffic committee meetings. They decided that permit parking was the way to alleviate the issue.

The issue today is for our volunteers doing parking enforcement. There are signs that say "Reserved Parking Permit Required". Parking permits are issued 3 per resident. One resident has 5 vehicles. Those are the types of issues showing up.

The primary issue is that we have these signs that stop at a point and College Way goes on up to Knoll. A person that has been cited is saying that if the sign

stops at a certain point you should be able to park past that point and is challenging the parking ticket in that it does not cover the entire street. This issue is showing up in several areas of town where we have signage. The question is then: How do we interpret this on behalf of the city and/or consideration of the resident.

Schroeder said maybe if there is a sign at either end of College Way saying "Reserved parking from 6 am – 4 pm on College Way" Harris and Young agreed that if you put the street name on the sign it would take in the entire street.

There is historical documentation on the parking issue on College Way. Schroeder said she thought the parking issue had gone to council and the high school had representation present. They had concluded there would be so many permits and they would be so much. Chief Harris will try to find the documentation from years ago.

At this point in time the question is how to handle this issue. Are we going to leave it "as is" and not enforce anything that isn't within the existing sign or we look to change signage to include the street name?

Schroeder will look for documentation to provide clarity for parking signage.

OBTA AGENDA ITEMS PENDING PER FINALIZATION OF PARKING/TRAFFIC STUDY:

Traffic Study – AD HOC COMMITTEE handling:

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Bauer